

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-13

Building Date: mid to late 19th c.

Building Name: J. H. Smith House

Location: 2608 Parkland Drive, Suitland, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The J. H. Smith house is a two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled frame house, located in a densely populated area near Marlboro Pike. The house is L-shaped, and consists of a three-bay north facing gabled section to which a south wing is attached at right angles. The north facade is three-bays with entrance in the central bay. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. At third story level in the west gable end (which forms the first two bays of the west facade) are two side-by-side single sash eight-pane windows. The west, and now principal, facade continues, flush with this gable end, four bays across, with entrances in the second and third bays. The two entrances are covered by an asymmetrical pedimented canopy, and supported by metal trellis posts. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. An additional bay's width has been added on the first and second stories to the east facade of this south section and the roof has been extended to cover it, giving the east plane of the roof a catslide profile. There is a basement under the three-bay north section. Hand hewn beams, ca. 8" square in section, form the sill. Light green aluminum siding covers the old German siding. Foundations are brick with some concrete block.

Significance

The J.H. Smith House is a much-expanded and much-altered dwelling, the nucleus of which was probably constructed in the period immediately following the Civil War. It was constructed across the Washington-Marlboro Turnpike from the toll gate. The main part of the building is two-and-one-half stories and three bays by two bays. Its original plan of central passage and flanking parlors has been altered, to house two families. The rough hewn character of the sill beams visible in parts of the basement suggests that this section may precede the Civil War, although the house does not appear on the Martenet map of 1861. The 100-acre farm on which it stands was purchased in 1866 by J.H. Smith, who may have built the structure at that time. It is not clear when the L-shaped wing was added on the south; it is notable for its unusual method of framing: 3" x 4" trimmed lumber laid directly on top of one another. The 100-acre farm passed through a series of owners during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1925 the area was subdivided into the community of Parkland. Recent changes include adding a bay's width to the south ell, and covering it with a catslide roof. The German siding of the entire building has recently been replaced by aluminum siding. The result is a tall and spacious building which houses two families and a small business, and which retains none of its historical character.

Acreage: .26 acre

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J. H. Smith House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2608 Parkland Drive

___ not for publication

city, town Suitland

___ vicinity of

congressional district 5

state Maryland

county Prince George's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Blythe B. Miller

street & number 2608 Parkland Drive

telephone no.:

city, town Suitland

state and zip code Maryland 20747

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

liber 3646

street & number Main Street

folio 837

city, town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974

___ federal ___ state ☒ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale

state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #75A-13

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The J. H. Smith house is a two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled frame house, located in a densely populated area near Marlboro Pike with its principal facade now facing roughly west onto Parkland Drive. There are several very large oak trees in the small yard area.

The house is L-shaped, and consists of a three-bay north facing gable-roofed section to which a south wing is attached at right angles. The north facade is three-bays with entrance in the central bay. The entrance is covered by a small pedimented canopy supported by metal trellis posts. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between first and second bays. At third story level in the west gable end (which forms the first two bays of the west facade) are two side-by-side single sash eight-pane windows. The west (and now principal) facade continues, flush with this gable end, four bays across, with entrances in the second and third bays. The two entrances are covered by an asymmetrical pedimented canopy, extended south to cover the second entrance, and supported by metal trellis posts. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between second and third bays. An additional bay's width has been added on the first and second stories to the east facade of this south section and the roof has been extended to cover it, giving the east plane of the roof a catslide profile.

There is a basement under the three-bay north section. Hand hewn beams, ca. 8" square in section, form the sill.

Light green aluminum siding covers the old German siding. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash and have dark green louvered aluminum shutters. Foundations are brick with some concrete block, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingle. At the east gable end of the north section is a breeze-way/garage, and beyond it, a small one-story shop building.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #75A-13

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates mid to late 19th Cen. **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The J.H. Smith House is a much-expanded and much-altered dwelling, the nucleus of which was probably constructed in the period immediately following the Civil War. It was constructed across the Washington-Marlboro Turnpike from the toll gate, and may have been, as local tradition suggests, the home of the gate keeper, although this has not been substantiated.

The main part of the building is two-and-one-half stories and three bays by two bays. Its original plan of central passage and flanking parlors has been altered, and the interior renovated, to house two families. The rough hewn character of the sill beams visible in parts of the basement suggests that this section may even precede the Civil War, although the house does not appear on the Martenet map of 1861. The 100-acre farm on which it stands was purchased by J.H. Smith in 1866; he may have built the structure at that time, or perhaps rebuilt an earlier tenant building which stood there during the previous ownership of Zachariah Berry and Washington J. Beall.¹

It is not clear when the L-shaped wing was added on the south; it is notable for its unusual method of framing: 3" x 4" trimmed lumber laid directly on top of one another.

The 100-acre farm passed through a series of owners during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1925 the area was subdivided into the community of Parkland. Resubdivision has created a .26 acre lot in Parkland on which the house stands.²

Recent changes include adding a bay's width to the south ell, and covering it with a catslide roof. A one-story hip-roofed addition with carport attached has been built onto this section. Another major addition on the east gable end of the main block includes a garage and key shop. The German siding of the entire building has recently been replaced by aluminum siding. The result is a tall and spacious building which houses two families and a small business, and which retains none of its historical character.

Survey No. P.G. #75A-13

cf. Notes, Item #8

Quadrangle scale _____

[illegible]

PS-2746

#8. Continued

Notes

1 Martenet Map of Prince George's County, 1861; G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878; Prince George's County Land Records FS #4:369.

2 Prince George's County Equity #6427; Plat Book #3:28.

PA # 175A-13
1702205504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: J. H. Smith House					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Silver Hill Road and Parkland Drive					
CITY OR TOWN: District Heights					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The house is a two story, frame building now covered with shingles. The three bay north facade has a central doorway covered with a pedimented porch. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. To the south is a two-story ell. The frieze, with a center moulding, continues across the gable end.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian		DATE 12 Sept 74
ORGANIZATION MNCPPC		
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland	

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

Chain of Title

J.H. Smith House
P.G. #75A-13

#3646:837 24 Sept. 1968 Deed	Salvino and Ester Macario to Blythe B. and Alba M. Miller; Lot "B" of Resubdivision of Lots 7, 8, 9 and part of 10, Parkland; same which grantors acquired by #1006:155.
#1006:155 23 Jan. 1948 Deed	Louise M. Moran, widow, to Salvino and Ester Macario; Lot "B" of Resubdivision of Lots 7, 8, 9 and part of 10, Parkland, in Spaulding District.
#744:323 10 March 1945 Deed	William A. and Robbie E. Hitt to Louise M. Moran; Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 in subdivision known as Parkland as shown in Plat Book #3:28.
#638:195 22 Oct. 1941 Deed	Robert W. and Sadie D. Hitt to William A. and Robbie E. Hitt; Lots 1 to 3, inclusive; 5 to 13, inclusive; 22, 23, 25 to 29, inclusive; 45 to 49, inclusive, and 58 in Parkland.
#638:181 22 Oct. 1941 Deed	William A. and Robbie E. Hitt to Robert W. and Sadie D. Hitt; Lots 1 to 3, inclusive; 5 to 13, inclusive; 22, 23, 25 to 29, inclusive; 45 to 49, and 58 in Parkland.
#616:141 26 April 1941 Deed	John W. Batts to Robbie E. Hitt; Lots 1 to 3, inclusive; 5 to 13, inclusive; 22 to 29, inclusive; 47 to 49, inclusive, and 58, Parkland.
Equity #6427 1925	William A. Hitt and John W. Batts petitioned for admittance to record of a plat for a subdivision named Parkland; 23 Oct. 1925 Court ordered plat received for record; same land which was conveyed by #148:269 and #152:262.
#152:262 10 Feb. 1920 Deed	For \$4,300, William A. and Robbie E. Hitt to John W. Batts; one-half undivided interest in 100 acres in Spauldings District; same which grantor acquired by deeds from Nannie Purdy and Arch Butler.
#148:272 6 Oct. 1919 Deed	Arch Butler, husband of Caroline (Purdy) Butler, to William Addison Hitt; 100 acres in Spauldings District; all Butler's interest in the estate of William A. Purdy, deceased.
#148:269 23 Dec. 1919 Deed	Nannie Purdy et al, heirs of William A. Purdy, to William Addison Hitt; 100 acres in Spauldings District; same ratified by Court in Equity #5257; same land which William Purdy acquired by #12:37.

- 2 -

#147:239
18 Oct. 1919
Deed

For \$8,600, S. Marvin Peach, trustee in Equity #5257, to William Addison Hitt; 100 acres in Spauldings District; same which William Purdy, deceased, acquired by #12:37.

Equity
#5257
1919

Nannie Purdy, widow, vs. heirs of William A. Purdy; W.A. Purdy died intestate 23 April 1917 leaving his widow and ten children as heirs; they petitioned for the court's ratification of a contract to sell the deceased's real estate to William Addison Hitt; Decree - 19 Oct. 1919. Contract ratified, sale confirmed and S. Marvin Peach appointed trustee to make conveyance.

#12:37
1 Dec. 1902
Deed

For \$4,000, Amos and Alice M. Zigler and Jacob H. and Ella M. Zigler of Lancaster, Pennsylvania to William A. Purdy; 100 acres lying on the turnpike road from Washington to Upper Marlboro; same which was conveyed by J. Hoffman Smith to Conrad Zigler on 1 Nov. 1871 and same which was conveyed by Washington J. Beall to John H. Smith on 14 Dec. 1866.

WRS #1:85
23 Feb. 1880
Will

Estate of Conrad Zigler who died 16 Feb. 1880; after cash bequests to grandchildren, deceased devised residue of his estate to his son John for his life and then it was to be equally divided among John's children. John died 17 Nov. 1894 before completely settling his father's estate so the Register for the probate of wills in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania appointed Amos Zigler administrator in his place. Amos and Jacob H. Zigler were both witnesses to Conrad's will.

HB #5:237
1 Nov. 1871
Deed

John Hoffman and Susannah Smith to Conrad Zigler; 100 acres lying along the turnpike from Washington to Upper Marlboro; same which grantors acquired 14 Dec. 1866 from Washington J. Beall.

FS #4:369
14 Dec. 1866
Deed

For \$5,000, Washington J. and Mary A. Beall to John Hoffman Smith; 100 acres known as The Levels, binding on the public road leading from Forestsville to Washington; part of the same property conveyed by W.O. Sprigg to Zacariah Berry on 19 Sept. 1820, same which Zacariah Berry bequeathed to his daughter, Mary A. Beall, and same which Mary A. Beall conveyed as a gift to her son, Washington J. Beall.

DISTRICT HEIGHTS
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

R-R

R-55

R-18

R-T

R-R

R-10

R-55

R-80

R-18

C-2

C-2

C-1
PARCEL B

C-2

8796

2209

1436

7760

2993

2461

2764

3191

6243

8183

1246

1222

PG 75A-13

ALFRED H. SMITH
5264 / 717
24.93A.
P138

BOARD OF
COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
LAW # 38891
502A
P155

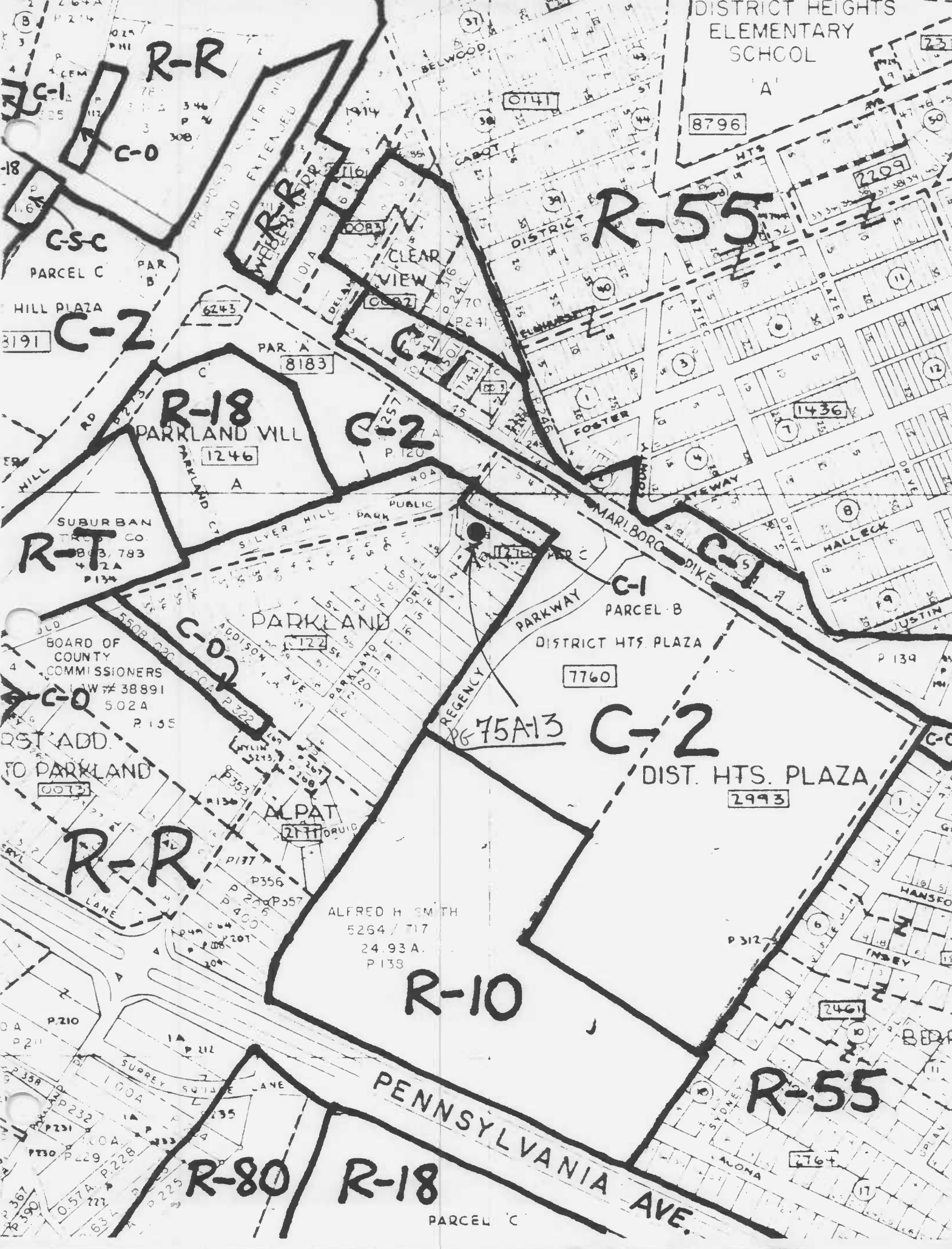
ST. ADD.
TO PARKLAND
0073

ALPAT
2111 TORUID

DIST. HTS. PLAZA

PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

PARCEL C





P.G.#75A-13

J. H. Smith House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-13

J.H. Smith House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-13

J. H. Smith House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-13

J. H. Smith

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME # 75A-13 J.H. SMITH HOUSE PG: 75A-13
LOCATION CORNER OF MARLBORO PIKE & PARKLAND DR DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD
FACADE NW
PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74 MOWYER